

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

The regular meeting for the Board of Selectmen convened at 7:00 p.m. in the public meeting room in the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street. In attendance were John R. Morrell, Edward S. Harrison, and Dr. Richard M. Smith. Also present were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and the media.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

Dr. Smith made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for September 13, 2016 – open session. Mr. Harrison seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Joint Meeting with School Committee:

The joint meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were School Superintendent Cheryl Clarke, and School Committee members Peter Sauriol, Joel Keller, and Josh Farber.

Mr. Morrell explained the joint meeting was to appoint a new School Committee member to fill the vacancy, until the next Town Election at which time nomination papers will have to be taken out for the position.

There were two candidates interested in filling the vacancy on the School Committee, Edward Maia and Michael Roblinski. They were interviewed in alphabetical order with Mr. Maia going first. Each candidate explained their background and were asked a series of questions by both the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee.

Mr. Maia stated he served one term on the Board of Selectmen in the past as well as one and a half terms on the School Committee. Mr. Roblinski stated he has spent the past twenty years in education, and is a teacher in Southbridge.

A brief discussion followed the interviews between the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen on which candidate they felt would be the best fit based on their answers.

Mr. Morrell noted both candidates are excellent, but only one can be appointed. Mr. Morell said hopefully the person not chosen will run in the future.

Dr. Smith made a motion to appoint Edward Maia to the School Committee to fill the vacancy, effective immediately until the next Town Election. Mr. Farber seconded and a roll call vote was taken as follows: Peter Sauriol – Aye; Joel Keller – Aye; Josh Farber – Aye; Edward Harrison – Nay; John Morrell – Aye; Dr. Richard Smith – Aye.

The joint meeting was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Monson Lacrosse – Octoberfest Approval:

Monson Lacrosse Association Board member Jeannie Guertin and President Dan Haggerty approached the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Haggerty explained they usually raise money through the annual spaghetti suppers for the lacrosse program to help purchase equipment, buy uniforms, allow the players to go to tournaments, etc., and scholarships, one for boys and one for girls, who are the highest academic achievers in each of the varsity lacrosse programs. Mr. Haggerty also noted the Monson Lacrosse Association is financing a tutoring program at the High School using lacrosse players who are academically able to act as peer tutors.

Mr. Haggerty explained this year the Board members wanted to try something different by having an Oktoberfest on October 15, 2016 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

The Association is requesting a one-day liquor license and the use of Memorial Hall for the Oktoberfest. They will have raffles, finger food, craft beer, wine, soda, and music from a local band. The cost of the tickets will be \$15 and you get a commemorative mug and one pour of your choice. After that drinks may be purchased. They will offer designated drivers identified at the door by a band or a stamp. The designated drivers will get a free soft drink or water. A Police Officer will be present from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. The people pouring the alcohol will be TIPS certified; the food permit from the Board of Health is all set; and the liquor liability rider on the insurance policy for that day is pending.

Mr. Morrell said he feels this is good, and this is what he wants to see Memorial Hall used for. Mr. Morrell congratulated the Monson Lacrosse Association on successfully having ten years of lacrosse in Monson; a program that goes from the Learn to Play program right on up through High School.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to approve the requests from the Monson Lacrosse Association for their Oktoberfest Celebration from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. in Memorial Hall on October 15, 2016, and for the one-day liquor license. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Surplus Property:

Mr. Brassard explained the surplus property consists of a 4 X 6 Big Tex trailer and an F735 John Deere mower, both in the Monson Parks and Recreation Department. The mower is about ten years old and is too slow for the Town's use. Mr. Brassard noted that type of mower is selling for some pretty decent money right now on GovDeals and felt we might be able to get some money back for both the trailer and the mower as they are still in good shape. These two items will not need to be replaced as the department has their main mowers and trailer.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to designate the Big Tex trailer and John Deere F735 mower as surplus property to be sold through the GovDeals process. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Building Inspector Update:

Mr. Brassard said a State Inspector referred John Moran to him. Mr. Moran is an ex-city Inspector from Fitchburg who is looking to get back into the workforce. Mr. Moran is a Local inspector and would have to become a Commissioner within 18 months of being hired, and he is willing to do that. Mr. Brassard met with him for two hours while doing a quasi-job interview, a meet and greet, and it evolved from there. Mr. Brassard feels Mr. Moran is a strong candidate for the position and will be a good fit for Monson, if he is hired.

Mr. Brassard noted Mr. Moran would be available to begin working on November 1st; this would be a full-time position at the current rate of a Step 1 on the pay grid for the Building Inspector.

Mr. Brassard said Mr. Moran had inquired about a modified four-day work week. Mr. Brassard noted he feels that would be fine as long as there are set hours the public can rely on. Mr. Moran would also be our Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Mr. Brassard explained Mr. Moran is out of the state until October 28th, so the Board of Selectmen could hold a special meeting to interview Mr. Moran on November 1st since it is a Tuesday and have Mr. Moran start on the following day if he is hired; or wait until the regularly scheduled meeting on November 8th, or do a one-on-one telephone interview with Mr. Moran, the Chair Mr. Morrell, and himself; or whatever direction the Board wants to take to proceed.

Mr. Morrell felt this position is time sensitive. Dr. Smith felt we need to make sure Mr. Moran is a good fit for Monson, and felt the Board could either hold a special meeting or leave it up to Mr. Brassard if he feels comfortable doing it.

Mr. Brassard explained if someone else were hired without the Local license, BJ or some other Commissioner would still have to be retained on the books, to do the sign offs on everything, which becomes problematic as it's hard to come in on a part-time basis to review all the documents and make informed decisions. Also, there aren't too many Local Building Inspectors looking for jobs. Mr. Brassard said he feels better about finding someone who is already a Local, which is what we did when we hired Ms. Church.

Mr. Brassard said he feels confident in conducting the interview, and his intent would be to have Linda Hull, and Fire Chief McDonald, in on the interview as well as they both have different interactions with the Building Inspector than Mr. Brassard would have, and therefore would have a totally different level of expertise in assessing the candidate, and then have the Board of Selectmen appoint Mr. Moran during an October meeting, if he is chosen.

Mr. Morrell noted he feels comfortable having Mr. Brassard handle this since there is only one candidate, and feels it's more of a procedural process.

Dr. Smith agreed he is comfortable with having Mr. Brassard interview Mr. Moran in the process just described, and added Mr. Moran can still come in later to a meeting to meet the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to allow Mr. Brassard and his committee to vet this candidate, and to give him the approval to make the decision in the Boards absence. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Setting of a Special Town Meeting:

Mr. Harrison made a motion to set the Special Town Meeting for November 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium in Granite Valley Middle School. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Harrison made a motion to open the Special Town Meeting warrant. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Mr. Brassard noted the warrant will be closed at the Selectmen's meeting on October 25, 2016, however he said he has to confer with the Finance Committee to make sure this will be alright with them.

Correspondence was read and completed.

In Other Business to Come Before the Board:

- Mr. Morrell said the Monson Arts Council has statues on the lawn at the House of Art and it's making it hard for the Parks and Rec. Dept. to mow there, and wondered if Mr. Brassard could speak to the Arts Council about this.

Mr. Brassard stated the Monson Arts Council will be coming in to the next Selectmen's meeting on October 11th to discuss the placement, or non-placement, of the three flower shaped metal sculptures that he believes came from the Monson Developmental Center. The Arts Council wants to cement these in the ground on a strip of land on the side of the House of Art next to the driveway in the general vicinity of where they are currently, but since this is town owned land, they need the approval from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Morrell said the Arts Council asked if he puts snow on the side of the driveway where they are, and he told them he does.

- Mr. Morrell said he wants to work with Mr. Brassard to invite local businesses in to future Selectmen meetings, to have a business forum, to see how things are going for them and if they have any suggestions or concerns.
- Mr. Morrell said he wants to bring the utility company in to a future meeting to discuss the double utility pole situation in town.
- Dr. Smith said there were some people who weren't happy with having to limit items during the recent Bulky Day held this past Saturday. Mr. Brassard said he will be attending the next Board of Health meeting on October 12th.

At 8:28 p.m., Mr. Harrison made a motion to adjourn from open session to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to non-union personnel pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (2) and collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 (3), not to return to open session. Dr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously VOTED.

Dr. Richard M. Smith, Clerk